



The Gibault Home For Boys

The idea of a home for delinquent Catholic boys was first brought into being in 1909 when a small group of members of the Knights of Columbus and a Catholic priest were discussing matters of Catholic interest. The thoughts expressed at that time grew with the years and was discussed at each succeeding State Convention of the Knights of Columbus until in 1916 a foundation fund was established, looking toward the realization of this dream and in 1920 a goodly sum was in the treasury. The selection of a site was the next step and after considerable looking about, the fine estate of Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Smith, located five miles south of Terre Haute, gained the favor of the committee in charge with a purchase price of \$75,000.00 involved. On the day the committee was to make its final decision, Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Smith decided to donate the sum of \$25,000.00 if their estate was purchased. This factor gained unanimous approval of the committee and the site for the home, practically ready to start operation, was purchased. It was realized, in the beginning, that the first price of \$75,000.00 was an exceptionally low figure and great credit for the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Smith should be given. The purchase was made in 1921 and the home named The Gibault Home for Boys. In naming it the Gibault Home, in honor to the memory of the Very Rev. Pierre Gibault who was ordained a priest in Quebec, Canada, March 19, 1768, and was noted for his missionary labors among the Indian and French settlers in the then Northwest. He was created Vivar-General in 1768, was sent to Vincennes, Indiana in 1770 as pastor and assisted George Rogers Clark materially in the latter's conquest of Kaskaskia and Vincennes. He is supposed to have died in Missouri in 1804 but his last resting place is unknown. Rev. Micheal J. Gorman was the founder and director of Gibault Home and remained with the institution for 13 years when the Brothers of Holy Cross assumed charge on September 1, 1934 with Brother Rupert C. S. C. as its director and Brother Anastasius, C. S. C. as assistant director, and Rev. J. J. Reddington, C. S. C. as Chaplain. Brother Oswin, C. S. C. is Perfect of Discipline and Brother Avila, C. S. C. is Engineer. The home has an enrollment of 50 boys at this writing and all grade from first to sophomore high school are taught. A large amount of credit is due Father Gorman for his persistent and tireless efforts in early years of the home in establishing proper corrective methods and turning out boys whose characters had been molded in a fine religious atmosphere. Gibault Home is sponsored by and maintained by the Knights of Columbus of Indiana in which the local council, Terre Haute Council No. 541 has played an important part.